



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/783,197      | 02/20/2004  | Michael Lueders      | TRW(REPA)6955       | 6188             |

26294 7590 07/29/2005

TAROLLI, SUNDHEIM, COVELL & TUMMINO L.L.P.  
526 SUPERIOR AVENUE, SUITE 1111  
CLEVEVLAND, OH 44114

|          |
|----------|
| EXAMINER |
|----------|

COLLADO, CYNTHIA FRANCISCA

|          |              |
|----------|--------------|
| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
|----------|--------------|

3618

DATE MAILED: 07/29/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

|                              |                                |                                |  |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| <b>Office Action Summary</b> | Application No.<br>10/783,197  | Applicant(s)<br>LUEDERS ET AL. |  |
|                              | Examiner<br>Cynthia F. Collado | Art Unit<br>3618               |  |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 February 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 2/25/2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
     Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
     Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                        | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)                     |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)               | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____  |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>2/25/2003</u>   | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                                    |

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Peter'356 (Us Patent No.6, 860,356).

Referring to claim 1, Peter discloses an energy storing unit, which drives an actuating member of a lifting mechanism coupled to the hood (see figure 1, element 12), an electromotor by which the energy storing unit can be set into a tensioned state (figure 4, element 44), a locking element which in a rest position holds the energy storing unit in the tensioned state (figure 4, element 38), characterized in that the carrier is provided, movable in a linear manner by the electromotor and capable of being coupled selectively to the energy storing unit, the carrier by a first movement tensioning the energy storing unit and by a second movement releasing the locking element (see column 2, lines 25-48).

Referring to claim 3, Peter discloses a drive comprising a bearing shaft mounted in a housing (figure 4, element 39).

Referring to claim 4, Peter discloses the energy-storing unit comprises a spiral spring and a coupling element coupled non-rotably to the bearing shaft, the spiral spring being fastened by one end to the housing and by the other end to the coupling element (see figure 8, elements 48b, 46b and 52).

***Note: spring is in the same shape as a spiral***

Referring to claim 5, peter discloses the carrier can be brought into engagement with a lever, which is coupled non-rotably to the bearing shaft (see column 2, lines 62-64).

Referring to claim 6, peter discloses the locking element is a locking pawl supported on the housing, the locking pawl in a rest position engaging and securing the lever (see column 3, lines 4-10).

Referring to claim 7, peter discloses a locking element is a locking pawl in it's rest position engaging and securing the lever (see column 4, lines 16-21).

Referring to claim 8, peter discloses the actuating member is a hinge member coupled non-rotably to the bearing shaft (see column 2, lines 59-66).

***Allowable Subject Matter***

3. Claim 2 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: the primary reason for the indication of allowable subject matter in this case is

Art Unit: 3618

the inclusion of the carrier is arranged on a threaded spindle coupled to the motor in combination with the other elements recited not found in the prior art of record.

### **Conclusion**

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

US Patent No. 6,533,058 issued to Peter teaches a drive for a flap on a vehicle

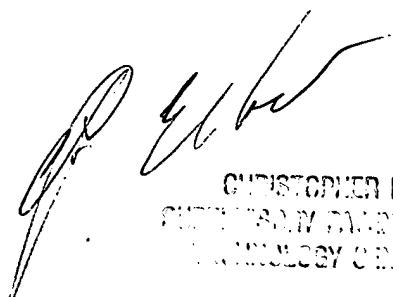
US Patent No.6, 860,356 issued to Peter teaches a drive for a motor vehicle hood

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cynthia F. Collado whose telephone number is (571)2728315. The examiner can normally be reached on mon-fri 8-4.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Chris Ellis can be reached on (571)2726914. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

\*\*\*



CHRISTOPHER P. ELLIS  
SUPERVISOR, ELECTRONIC BUSINESS CENTER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 0000

Application/Control Number: 10/783,197  
Art Unit: 3618

Page 5